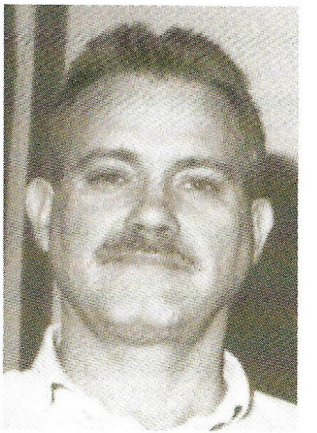
# Al Sohl Jr. earns MMR 305

Al Sohl Jr. was born and raised in Long Island N.Y. 53 years ago. He is the father of three children, Yvette, Monica and Albert III and has been interested in miniature trains as far back as he can remember.

The usual story of Lionel trains starting at the age of three and all that stuff hold true with AL. His dad was really the key factor in why he maintained his interest in this great hobby. Although his father was not an avid model railroad fan himself, he was there building Al's Lionel layout(s) with Al's assistance. At the age of 10 Al's father got him going in HO scale. Visiting the local clubs every year with him really kept the "juices" flowing. At around 14, during one of these visits, Al saw his first HOn3 trains in a corner away from the HO standard gauge at one of these clubs—the seed of narrow gauge was firmly planted. After military service, marriage and moving into a new home, he finally began his first adventure in the world of narrow gauge railroading which, almost 30 years later is still his main interest.

He started scratchbuilding at a very young age following articles of E.L. Moore. He has been scratchbuilding ever since. He has AP Certificates in Structures, Rolling Stock, Prototype Modeler, Model Railroad Author, Chief Dispatcher, (where seven of his fellow model railroaders from his train club in Farmingville, N.Y. all received this Certificate at the same time!) and Association Volunteer.



Al has been Chairperson of the HOn3 club layout in this facility, which the club claims is the largest HOn3 club layout east of the Mississippi. It is 100% finished (if a model railroad layout is ever really finished), including scenery and structures. Of course it is fully operational. He has had three articles published from projects he has built on this layout. He earned four of his AP Certificates: Scenery, Structures, Prototype Modeler and Chief Dispatcher from work he completed on this layout.

His other interest is in metal machining (which ties in nicely with this hobby) and even though HOn3 is his main scale/gauge, he dabbles in G scale, On30 and HO standard gauge as well.

Al says the Achievement Program has been great for his modeling discipline but the camaraderie is an added bonus. He has enjoyed meeting and working with many great model railroaders down the path to becoming a Master Model Railroader.